Decline in Imports

198. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether imports of 300 major items have gone down by 11 per cent as compared to the corresponding period last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is its impact on the liberalisation of the import regime?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per the provisional data available with the Government, the import of 300 sensitive items, have declined by 11% during the period April-May, 2001, compared to the same period last year. The total imports of the country during this period have declined by 3.74% and the total non oil imports during this period have declined by 6.01%. The overall picture that emerges from these quick estimates is one of normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors. The figures reveal that the removl of quantitative restrictions has not lead to any surge in imports.

Export of wheat and rice

199. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice India propose to export this year;

(b) the countries to whom these exports would be made; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per EXIM Policy, the export of rice (both basmati and non-basmati) is allowed freely subject to registration of contracts with APEDA. For the Year 2001-02, export of 3 million tonnes of rice has also been permitted out of the stocks of FCI. The export of wheat is allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by DGFT and issue of Registration-cum-

Allocation-Certificates (RCACs) by APEDA. For the year 2001-02, an export ceiling of 5 million tonnes of wheat has been announced.

It is not possible to estimate the likely quantum of rice and wheat exports and their direction of exports, as the exports of rice and wheat would depend upon international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preference and varieties traded.

Delivery of letters in Mohan Nagar Sub-Post Office

200. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 91 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 2001 and state:

(a) the names of senders and addressees of 63 Registered letters together with the reasons for returning the same to the senders in each case;

(b) how many such Registered letters were received in Mohan Nagar Sub-post office during the month of December, 2000;

(c) whether all of them were made available to addressees; and

(d) if not, how many such letters, indicating the names of senders and addressees, were sent back to the senders the reasons for non-delivery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The name of addressees of the sender and addressees of 63 registered letters that were returned during the month of December, 2000 along with the reasons for non delivery are enclosed in Annexure [*See* Appendix 193, Annexure No. 1]

(b) During December, 2000, 999 registered letters were received in Mohan Nagar Post Office for delivery.

(c) Out of 999 registered letters, 924 registered letters were delivered to the addressees.

(d) 56 registered letters were returned for various reasons to the senders as mentioned in the Annexure-B and 19 were in deposit for